means for calculating a polyhedron containing therein whole or a part of the three-dimensional shape model;

a pointing device;

means for judging a relative positional relationship between a point designated by the pointing device and a position of said polyhedron; and

means for changing a display mode of said three-dimensional shape model in accordance with the result of the judgment, wherein at least a depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controlled in accordance with the position of the polyhedron.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 37-41 are pending and claims 37 and 41 have been amended. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kurihara (Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 4-289976). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following.

First, it is noted that this reference has previously been referred to as the reference to Okamoto. However, Applicants wish to note that the named inventor of Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 4-289976 is actually Kurihara.

Next, independent claims 37 and 41 recite that at least the depth of a control point on the three-dimensional shape model is controllable in accordance with a position of the polyhedron. It is respectfully asserted that the Kurihara does not disclose or suggest this feature.

According to Kurihara, a complicated three-dimensional basis shape model is created by transforming, dividing and composing simple three-dimensional basis shape models. Kurihara is only capable of forming a complicated three-dimensional basis shape model, like a coffee cup as shown in Fig. 8, which is merely several three-dimensional shape models combined. However, Kurihara does not disclose controlling a depth of a control point on the complicated three-dimensional shape shown in Fig. 8. Accordingly, the features of claims 37 and 41 are not disclosed or suggested by Kurihara. Claims 38-40 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Thus, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

It is also respectfully requested that the foregoing claim amendments be entered in this